

The Ecuadorian Awa Territory: Protecting Habitat Biodiversity

Quarterly Progress Report and Project Culmination Status

Project period: 1 October 2001-30 September 2003
Period covered by report: 1 July-30 September 2003
Project executors: WWF Colombia
Altrópico Foundation
Ecuadorian Federation of Awa Centres (FCAE, its Spanish acronym)
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Date of report: 21 November 2003

A. Project Objective

The project “*The Ecuadorian Awa Territory: Protecting Habitat Biodiversity*” mainly aims to maintain vegetation cover and the elements and processes of biological and cultural biodiversity in Ecuador’s Awa Territory and its surrounding area through the empowerment of FCAE and other local organisations so they are capable of guiding development processes, while minimizing or neutralizing the adverse effects of the multiple pressures exerted on this resource-rich territory.

B. Summary of the Status of Project Activities and Advances

This report indicates the status of achievement of the goals established at the beginning of the project and streamlined at the beginning of the second (and last) year of project execution. It also details the activities carried out this last quarter (July-September 2003).

As can be observed, a considerable number of activities carried out are linked or directly related to activities carried out by the FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation within the framework of the CAIMAN project, also financed by USAID. The difficulties in coordination between the two projects (Protecting Habitat Biodiversity and CAIMAN) were overcome to a great extent after a series of meetings held between April and June.

The technical information presented shows that almost 100% of the project’s goals have been fulfilled and expected outputs achieved.

Of 29 goals established, four were not fulfilled due to different reasons:

Objective 1

Goal 1a: *Decree of agricultural area or exclusion of Awa areas repealed.* The responsible authorities did not repeal the Decree.

Objective 2

Goal 1g: *Territorial Management Plan of the Awa People of Ecuador reviewed and updated.* This goal was not 100% fulfilled because FCAE directives re-evaluated the methodological proposal initially put forth for adjusting and updating the Plan. When analyzing the process by which they wanted to update and socialize the Territorial Management Plan, they realized that the status of the current management plan requires greater effort in terms of time, resources, and community participation than that initially proposed. Therefore it was impossible to achieve this goal with the framework of the current project due to limited time and resources.

Goal 2a: *Appropriate decisions can be made about forest programs based on the information generated by feasibility studies and market surveys, specifically on the establishment of a training and transformation centre in San Lorenzo.* The team consultant did not submit on time the final report of the feasibility study so the report is just now being reviewed by the project's co-funding and co-executing entities.

Goal 3: *To define the financial, technical, and sociocultural viability of the FCAE Rio Bogotá Biology Station.* The consultant submitted the final report of the feasibility study in August, which was accordingly reviewed by the project's co-funding and co-executing entities and returned with annotations to expand and clarify several issues. Once the final document with the requested clarifications is submitted, a decision can be taken.

WWF has asked USAID for a 1-year extension to execute the two pending activities: the Río Bogotá tourism centre and the timber transformation centre in San Lorenzo. The two feasibility analyses must be completed to decide how to best invest remaining resources.

C. Specific products obtained during project implementation

Project products include the following:

- Conflict resolved between the FCAE and the Nytua Foundation.
- Greater protection of the Awa territory thanks to the installation of signposts along the limits of the Awa territory spaced from 200 to 500 apart, and to the installation of a radio communication system with frequencies in all Awa communities.
- Invasions and illegal exploitations of timber in Awa territory halted.
- Ecological and Sustainable Development Summit of Northern Esmeraldas held.
- Empowerment of nearly 150 leaders, directives, and inhabitants of Awa centres through capacity building workshops in legal issues with INREDH and ASDES.
- Capacities of the Altrópico Foundation and FCAE strengthened to carry out conservation and sustainable development projects, both alone and in alliance with others, for example the CAIMAN project and the WWF-Colombia/European project. Another project was submitted to Conservation International.
- The FCAE strategic plan prepared using a participatory approach, with the advisory services of La Ceiba Corporation (a partner NGO of WWF-Colombia).
- The FCAE forest strategy formulated.
- The feasibility study for the FCAE Rio Bogotá Science Station prepared. The station, as conceived, is not feasible. Therefore the project was reoriented toward research and ecotourism, and another feasibility study is underway.
- Four young Awa community members receiving training in theoretical and practical elements of fauna management.
- A team of three Awa community members trained in conceptual and practical elements of how to analyze population dynamics and its relationship with the environment for their socialization and appropriation within the territorial planning process.
- FCAE succeeded in establishing its Planning Department with basic GIS elements.

- An educational study plan prepared for Awa schools using an environmental approach.
- Seven health workers trained in how to establish medicinal gardens.
- Interest awakened in the organisation of Awa women through workshops and the sharing of experiences.

D. Details of Activities Carried Out during the Reporting Period and Final Status of Goals Proposed by the USAID Project

Objective 1: To maintain forest cover and biodiversity processes and elements in the Awa Territory and neighbouring areas.

Goal to 30 September 2003	Activities carried out during reporting period	Final status to 30 September 2003	Observations
<p>Goal 1: Territory Awa remains united, without divisions.</p> <p>1a. Decree of agricultural area or exclusion of Awa areas repealed.</p> <p>1b. Conflict with the Nytua Foundation legally clarified so the mentioned land is recognized as FCAE territory. As a result, the Nytua Foundation has stopped making a property claim over the Rio Bogotá Awa Centre.</p>	<p>1a. Monitoring of ongoing demands to repeal the decreed and active participation in events of the Esmeraldas Interinstitutional Committee.</p> <p>1b. Legal advisory services to resolve the conflict, holding meetings with the Nytua Foundation and conducting field verification with GPS.</p>	<p>1a. Goal not met. The decree was not repealed and constitutional protection was denied. The decree has not been applied during the current government but the situation continues.</p> <p>1b. Goal met 100%. The Nytua Foundation desisted from its claim over the lands of the Río Bogotá Centre, located within territory belonging to the Awa people.</p>	<p>1a. Although local organisations did everything legally possible to obtain the repeal, it was denied by responsible authorities. The Interinstitutional Coordinating Committee will continue to monitor the process and strive to promote a land management agreement between the actors being directly and indirectly affected by the situation.</p> <p>1b. As a result of the conflict that arose in the FCAE assembly regarding the name of the Awacachi Foundation, the Foundation has accepted to change its name and remove the prefix 'Awa'. In proof, a letter of agreement was signed in which the Foundation agrees to change the current name of its reservation, Awacachi, by mid-October.</p>

Goal to 30 September 2003	Activities carried out during the reporting period	Final status to 30 September 2003	Observations
<p>Goal 2: FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation with elements to manage and solve conflicts, so that external invasions are reduced or eliminated.</p> <p>2a. Awa communities have been effective in applying legal mechanisms to defend their territory before any potential invasion (signposts, radio communication system, legal advisory services).</p>	<p>2a. Placement of signposts and radio communication systems in perimeter areas and at Awa centres.</p> <p>2a. Altrópico Foundation: Continued to work with Afro-Ecuadorian communities in the area of influence of the FCAE Territory. Also worked with women groups in nearby black communities in the communes of Ricaurte, La Chiquita, Alto Tambo, and Durango to gradually approach other groups forming part of the communes.</p>	<p>2a. Goal met 100% regarding radio communication systems installed in Awa territory (7 basic radio communication systems funded by the CAIMAN project; 2 by IOM; and 4 by the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC). A central radio communication repeater was installed in the vicinity of Bella vista and 11 radio bases with the support of the “Protecting Habitat Biodiversity” project. Two radios were also installed in FCAE vehicles.</p> <p>2a. Goal met 100% with the placement of signposts.</p> <p>2a. For information on legal advisory services see INREDH (Regional Human Rights Institute) report.</p>	<p>The radio communication system for Awa communities serves to coordinate the activities carried out by FCAE by facilitating the communication between the different centres and between Awa families and by permanently informing FCAE headquarters, located in Ibarra and in San Lorenzo, what is happening throughout Awa territory.</p> <p>Two individuals/centre were also trained how to use the radio communication system. Community members pay for using the radio and the funds collected are used to pay for the facility where the Bellavista repeater is located. With the sponsor of the “Protecting Habitat Biodiversity” project and counterpart funding obtained by FCAE in other support institutions, all Awa communities now have radio communication systems (confirm information contained in the acts of delivery and receipt of the FCAE Secretariat).</p> <p>During this last reporting period, 1200 small signposts and 8 large signposts were placed in the most visible areas. Small signposts were installed along the perimeter of the Awa Territory, spaced 200 to 500 m apart. These signposts help invaders and inhabitants of neighbouring areas identify Awa land so they do not commit felonies in Awa territory. FCAE is aware that signposts and radios alone are not territorial protection mechanisms and that it is necessary to seek combined strategies.</p> <p>For the Altrapico Foundation, the work with black communities nearby Awa territory forms part of its institutional strategy and has therefore increased its efforts and technical and human resources.</p>

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2b. FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation have more elements to address conflicts.	<p>2b. Characterization of conflicts occurring in Awa territory completed.</p> <p>2b. Participation in workshops on conflict-solving and management.</p>	Goal met 100% during this reporting period.	<p>FCAE, through its Conflict Monitoring Committee, identified major areas of conflict. Eight paralegals were trained by the CAIMAN-ECOLEX project and conflicts have been characterized in the Awa territory at Mataje, Guadualito, Balsareño, Rio Bogotá, Rio Tigre, Palmira de Toctomí). FCAE leaders proved to be a valuable source of support. The CAIMAN Project provided funding to develop a strategy to solve conflicts and a primer on the National Constitution was accordingly prepared in two languages: Awapit and Spanish.</p> <p>The participation of Altrópico technicians in workshops on human rights and understanding of the Constitution provided elements that could proved useful in the handling of conflicts.</p>
2c. No illegal exploitations of forests or other types within Awa territory.	2c. Promotion of forest programs in those communities most threatened by incursion of timber companies and intermediaries.	Goal met 100% during this reporting period because there were no illegal exploitations; the threat, however, remains latent. Communities have not exploited timber illegally, but legally at the family and community levels. FCAE prepared a preliminary version of internal regulations for forest resource management that envisages, among other issues, sanctions in case of illegal timber exploitation within Awa territory.	Illegal timber exploitation by the Awa families at the Guadualito, Balsareño, and Pambilar centres continues latent. From the viewpoint of WWF, the only way of addressing existing or potential internal pressure on natural resources is that FCAE plan territorial management, formulate a Life Plan that comprehensively envisages what the Awa people consider as their well being (alternative solutions to health problems, education, organisation, participation equity, access to production resources), strengthen the organisation per se as well as the exercising of its own rights. While FCAE continues to respond in a reactive manner to internal and external pressures and while authority rests with external legal advisory services, the balance will continue to be precarious and community pressures will be increasingly greater.

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<p>Goal 3: To reduce the conversion of land use in lands adjacent to Awa Territory.</p> <p>3a. Ten communities involved in sustainable agricultural systems, and one Afro-Ecuadorian community with its territory legalized. All documents to legalize the territory of La Chiquita community (limits and management plans) are ready and people trained in alternative production systems and with production systems designed. Ten communities of FECONA (the Federation of Black Communities of Upper San Lorenzo) with people trained in alternative production systems and with production systems designed. The La Ceiba community with the marmalade company fully operational (legalized, equipment in operation, selling products) and the orchard in production.</p> <p>3b. The Ecological and Development Summit of Northern Esmeraldas held and most of the agreements reached having an environmental component.</p> <p>3c. 100% of the ethnic-territorial organisations (Awa, Chachi, and Epera) are informed about and participating in the Interinstitutional Committee of Northern Esmeraldas as well as the Summit through CONAICE (Confederacy of Indigenous Peoples of the Ecuadorian Coast).</p> <p>3d. Agreements reached at the Summit are followed up regarding the repeal of the Decree, land management issues, and negotiations with palm growers and timber companies.</p>	<p>3a. Training activities and production systems carried out as planned. Actions in process to legalize the La Chiquita territory.</p> <p>3b. The Ecological Summit was carried out on 18 and 19 July 2003 (previous reporting period).</p> <p>3c. Meetings were held and follow-up commissions created for the agreements and conventions subscribed at the Summit. FCAE, through its regional representative, is monitoring the aforementioned activities. Representation should be increased and improved to exact fulfillment of agreements and commitments.</p> <p>3d. Groundwork and participation in the monitoring of agreements subscribed at the Summit (mechanisms pending definition). The Interinstitutional Coordinating Committee signed a collaborative agreement with Conservation International for an 18-month period, giving continuity to the ongoing process. The technical and financial support of WWF to the monitoring process is being negotiated.</p>	<p>3a. Goal met 100%.</p> <p>3b. Goal met 100%.</p> <p>3c. Goal met in 90%. The representation and participation of ethnic-territorial organisations in the Committee can be improved.</p> <p>3d. Goal met in 80%. Not all agreements have been monitored, partly because of the delay in obtaining funding for this activity, which involves staffing, travelling, and other expenditures.</p>	<p>3a. The training process initiated with “Semillas de Agua” has involved 26 families of 6 communes belonging to FELONA. The La Chiquita community has submitted all the documents required to legalize its territory and is waiting for the Ministerial Resolution. This process had counterpart funding of the Altrópico Foundation, together with funds of “Friends of the Earth” (Sweden).</p> <p>Several meetings were held with public and private institutions to discuss the agreements that were to be presented at the Summit. Several institutions showed little interest in the process, especially governmental entities and the private sector (palm growers). FCAE continues to rely on commissions that monitor the agreements subscribed at the Summit, through its delegates Pablo Cantincus, Eusebio Nastacuas, and Hermes Cuasaluzan.</p> <p>FCAE has convened three workshops for the Chachi, Epera, Stáchila, and Manta Wancavilka indigenous people to discuss and socialize the process of the Summit and to offer training in political lobbying, preparation of projects, and communications to consolidate the new authorities of CONAICE, who did not allow us to have active regional representation.</p>

Goal to 30 September 2003	Activities carried out during the reporting period	Final status to 30 September 2003	Observations
<p>Goal 4: To build the legal capacity to defend the Awa territory</p> <p>4a. 150 members of 11 Awa centres aware of the constitutional alternatives to defend their territory, managing conflicts, and exercising their civil duties and rights.</p> <p>4b. 25 FCAE leaders and promoters managing and using constitutional alternatives to defend their territory, managing conflicts, and exercising their civil duties and rights.</p>	<p>4a and 4b. Workshops and formation events were held with INREDH and ASDES to complete the short-cycle capacity building program as planned.</p>	<p>All workshops carried out; goal met by INREDH (see Annexes).</p> <p>Goal met 100%; all workshops carried out by ASDES (see Annexes).</p>	<p>310 individuals participated in the 10 workshops held in the communities of Guadualito (2), Balsareño (2), Mataje (2), Pailón (2), and Gualpi Medio (2). The participation of individuals from central Rio Bogotá, La Unión, and Rio Tiger was not as active because of the difficult geographic access.</p> <p>40 individuals participated in the workshops on political lobbying, communications, and preparation of projects carried out with the Chachi, Epera, Stáchila, Manta Wancavilka people, prior a follow-up on the topics addressed.</p> <p>A workshop on alternatives to violence was held in Lita with the participation of 22 individuals.</p> <p>The last workshop on political lobbying was offered to 20 FCAE leaders and local technicians of the different subprograms.</p> <p>ASDES-facilitated workshops were held for 60 technicians, promoters, and subprogram directors who were involved in a learning process about the constitution.</p> <p>The Altrópico technical team of San Lorenzo and leaders of black communities involved in development issues have participated in ASDES-facilitated workshops.</p>

Objective 2: Building the capacity of local organisations so they can channel resource management problems and exert influence on local development processes.

Goal to 30 September 2003	Activities carried out during the reporting period	Final status to 30 September 2003	Observations
<p>Goal 1: To improve project management in FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation through the use of improved Administration and Finance systems.</p> <p>1a. 100% of financial reports approved without corrections.</p> <p>1b. 100% of technical reports approved without corrections.</p> <p>1c. 90% of goals established in the FCAE and Altrópico Foundation monthly work plans fulfilled, with the expected quality.</p> <p>1d. 100% of the projects presented by FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation pertinent to their respective Institutional Plans.</p>	<p>1a and 1b: Pending technical and financial reports prepared, presented, and adjusted.</p> <p>1c. Monthly planning meetings held and technical and financial aspects of project monitored.</p> <p>The project's Coordinating and Monitoring Committee met periodically, sometimes with the participation of WWF, the Altrópico Foundation, FCAE, and USAID.</p> <p>1d. Future projects were identified, closely linked to the 6 workshops and meetings held with support of the La Ceiba Corporation to formulate the FCAE Strategic Plan. The same holds true for the Altrópico Foundation, with support of PACT within the framework of the CAIMAN Project.</p>	<p>1a. Only one of the financial reports presented this reporting period was returned for correction. The administrative processes of both organisations (FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation) have improved notably.</p> <p>1b. Although the technical reports submitted have been approved, their quality could be substantially improved. This depends to a great extent on the type of format used for reporting.</p> <p>1c. The goal established in the FCAE work plan to implement this project has been fulfilled in 99%.</p> <p>1d. Of the projects formulated and implemented by FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation, 98% are harmonized with the institutional vision and mission.</p>	<p>1a and 1b. This last quarter technical and financial reports were submitted behind schedule. Regarding the reporting process, FCAE textually says: <i>"The preparation of technical reports by responsible FCAE staff has proved to be a learning process. Much has been learned at the meetings of the Monitoring Committee. At the beginning of the project, FCAE's financial reports contained several mistakes caused by the allocation of expenditures to the wrong budget items. Lately there have been mistakes in mathematical operations because of digitisation errors, among others. In addition, this learning experience has forced FCAE to strengthen its accounting department, looking toward the future".</i></p> <p>1c. FCAE promoters, leaders, and technicians, as well as community members, met on the 6th of every month to follow up on the different activities and plan ahead for the following month. Meetings were initially held in Ibarra and San Lorenzo, but in the middle of year 2 it was decided that these workshops should be held at one site only, Ibarra, chosen by consensus, because of the need to coordinate the meeting with technicians and executive directors of other Foundations executing projects (ECOLEX, CAIMAN, INREDH, the Altrópico Foundation, Jatun Sacha, ECOCIENCIA, Environment and Society). This institutionalised methodology helped FCAE merge activities in a single monthly work plan.</p> <p>Planning and monitoring meetings were institutionalised at both organisations, and the Coordinating and Monitoring Committees of the project operated as planned.</p> <p>The following is a textual citation of FCAE regarding the valuable role played by the Monitoring Committees for the Foundation, within the framework of the project <i>"Protecting Habitat Biodiversity in Ecuador's Awa Territory": "Committee meetings have served to identify shortcomings of both FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation. AID and WWF helped define the strategy to overcome this situation. The Committee was formed by the Project Coordinator and accountant of each organisation: Maria Fernanda Jaramillo and Martha Viviana Gómez for WWF; Mónica Zuquilanda and Paola Zavala for AID; Fernando Moreno and Edwin Bilbao for the Altrópico Foundation; and, this last year, Mr. Jaime Levy, Jeaneth Salas, and Hermes Cuasaluzan for FCAE. Meetings were held twice a month for FCAE and proved to be a valuable learning experience to implement future projects."</i></p> <p>1d. Both the FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation completed this reporting period several projects that had begun in previous periods: CAIMAN, IOM, Conservation International, and WWF-Bolivia, WWF-Colombia, and European Union.</p>

Goal to 30 September 2003	Activities carried out during this reporting period	Final status to 30 September 2003	Observations
<p>1e. Ensured continuity of 60% of the staff of both the Altrópico Foundation and FCAE for the next 3 years.</p> <p>1f. Strategic Plan of FCAE prepared, understood, socialized, and approved by FCAE Assemblies. Strategic plan of the Altrópico Foundation updated, socialized, and known by all Foundation staff.</p> <p>1g. Territorial Management Plan of the Awa People of Ecuador reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>1e. Future project staffing needs were included in projects prepared.</p> <p>1f. Six workshops and other work meetings were held with the La Ceiba Corporation and FCAE coordinators, promoters, and directives to complete the structuring of the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>1g. FCAE directives met with consultants of the La Ceiba Corporation to analyse the current status of the Plan and the existing inputs, and to determine how the revision and updating should be handled to ensure the Plan has the characteristics desired.</p>	<p>1e. Goal met 100%. Both FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation have made commitments to guarantee a basic staff for the next three years through ongoing projects.</p> <p>1f. Goal met 100%: FCAE has prepared its strategic plan with the help of the La Ceiba Corporation (WWF-Colombia's counterpart in the project "Protecting the Habitat in Awa Territory). The Altrópico Foundation has prepared its strategic plan with the support of PACT (with funding of USAID's CAIMAN project).</p> <p>1g. The goal was only fulfilled in 60%. The FCAE performed community diagnoses and already has the results of the demographic and environmental survey in Awa territory, cartography, and other useful inputs for updating and streamlining the Territorial Management Plan.</p>	<p>1g. The goal was not met 100% inasmuch as during the revision the FCAE Governing Council decided that this activity should be carried out in the longer term. (The document sent by FCAE to WWF-Colombia justifying this decision is enclosed.)</p>

Goal to 30 September 2003	Activities carried out during the reporting period	Final status to 30 September 2003	Observations
<p>Goal 2: To promote forest management and certification.</p> <p>2a. Appropriate decisions can be made about forest programs based on the information generated by feasibility studies and market surveys. Specifically, basic information on the financial and sociocultural convenience of the training and transformation centre will facilitate decision-making.</p> <p>2b. 30% of certification conditions and prerequisites have been fulfilled.</p> <p>2c. System to monitor the impact of forest management practices, applied by FCAE technicians and promoters, is operational.</p> <p>2d. Income generated by forest extraction activities is distributed according to clearly established and pertinent FCAE policies, seeking equity and community well-being.</p>	<p>2a. The team responsible for conducting the feasibility study for the forest management program and the company carried out 70% of the studies, and submitted the preliminary report for review of FCAE, the Altrópico Foundation, USAID, and WWF.</p> <p>2b. The forest strategy that will allow FCAE to fulfil the conditions and prerequisites for certification was completed during this reporting period. A balance of the activities carried out to date indicated these have been met in 80%.</p> <p>2c. Under the framework of the agreement with ECOCIENCIA (with co-funding of WWF-Colombia) to offer training on how to monitor forest management, workshops were held as planned on the design and implementation of plans to monitor the environmental impact of forest management.</p> <p>2d. The financial feasibility study of FCAE forest operations, a sociocultural study, and another financial feasibility study on the establishment and operation of a training and timber transformation centre were carried out, together with community meetings to define mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution of the income generated.</p>	<p>2a. Goal met in 70%.</p> <p>2b. Goal met 100% and surpassed. FCAE will be carrying out a new evaluation, using the SLIMFs eligibility criteria, during the first semester of 2004.</p> <p>2c. Goal met in 70%. Training plan is operating as planned, but FCAE still does not have in place a system to assess the impact of forest activities carried out by FCAE promoters.</p> <p>2d. Document prepared on the distribution of the income generated by forest operations.</p>	<p>2a. The feasibility study includes historical and cultural studies, a market survey, a financial feasibility study, project engineering, and quotes of equipment in accordance with USAID conditions. A request for a 12-month extension was submitted to USAID to continue to work on this topic based on the decisions made once the feasibility study has been completed. <<interpretación completa>></p> <p>2b. During this reporting period, the strategy for monitoring forest operations was completed and the following outputs achieved: publication on technical drying of timber; perimeter of Mataje defined at a scale 1: 500; comprehensive management plan for Mataje ready and approved; forest regulations completed and ready for socialization in communities; environmental impact assessment of forest operations completed and socialized by technicians; commodatum of the San Lorenzo headquarters in process. (support document available at FCAE Secretariat).</p> <p>2c. Training modules, each lasting 15 days, were completed and have been implemented within the training system. FCAE selected 4 members of different communities to participate in the training. (Support documents available of FCAE's Secretariat).</p> <p>2d. In October 2003 the agreements reached on how to distribute the income generated by forest operations were socialized to inhabitants of the Mataje, Balsareño, Pambilar, and Guadualito centres. (Support document available at the FCAE Secretariat).</p> <p>NOTE: This forest management component had complementary activities funded by USAID's CAIMAN project. WWF-Colombia does not know the details of the activities carried out under the framework of that project, but assumes that the scope of the goals of both projects is closely related.</p>

Goal to 30 September 2003	Activities carried out during the reporting period	Final status to 30 September 2003	Observations
Goal 3: To define the viability of the FCAE Rio Bogotá Biology Station.	3. The consultant and the FCAE team submitted to WWF and USAID the preliminary report on the feasibility of establishing a biology station in central Rio Bogotá and the new project: establishment of a community research and ecotourism centre. The report was revised and feedback provided with recommendations on what issues should be dealt with in more detail. A second version was submitted, partially adhering to the recommendations given by WWF to improve the study. Pertinent decisions will be made once the final document is ready.	3. A request for an extension was submitted to USAID to complete the feasibility study, make pertinent decisions, and invest resources based on informed decision-making.	3. At the meeting with the consultant, the preliminary study results presented to FCAE, the Altrópico Foundation, WWF, and AID indicate that the Science Station is not feasible. FCAE and the consultant have already submitted two proposals for the Rio Bogotá research and tourism project. WWF and USAID are waiting for the final report and have made recommendations on how improve the study because there are breaches in the analysis of the project's cultural and social feasibility.
Goal 4: To train the Fauna Program staff how to monitor the status of game species in an Awa community.	4. A capacity building program that also covers the monitoring of fieldwork was prepared for Fauna Program staff.	4. Goal met 100%. All theoretical and practical training events have been held as planned.	4. The practice involved the collection of basic information to design a pilot plan for community resource management. The four trainees (Socorro Casaluzán, Daniel Pay, Carlos Nastacuas, and Jaime Shiguango) were assisted by instructors of the National Herbarium and WCS. Theoretical and practical workshops were carried out satisfactorily. During training, six 1-month training modules to be carried out at 2-month intervals were designed to offer basic training in ecology, zoology, botany, conservation biology, censuses and monitoring of flora and fauna, ethno-biology, forest and wild fauna management, and land management using GIS. In year 2, the training cycle ended with courses in Spanish grammar and writing, preparation of presentations, leadership and resolution of conflicts, basic negotiation skills, environmental impact analysis, planning, and project design and implementation.

Goal to 30 September 2003	Activities carried out during the reporting period	Final status to 30 September 2003	Observations
Goal 5: To socialize the results of the population dynamics survey and how they relate to the environment, and achieve their appropriation and possible application to territorial planning and the life plan of the Awa people.	<p><i>Training in Trimble</i> Processing and analysis of satellite images; digitisation of maps; preparation of base maps; preparation of thematic maps; ecological and economic zoning.</p> <p>In addition to the training received, FCAE has full computer equipment, information, GPS, plotter, GIS licenses, and human resources (geographer and assistant) to effectively work on planning issues.</p>	<p>Goal met 100% in phase I of the project to December 2003, with the support of WWF-Colombia.</p>	<p>FCAE began to raise funds to continue with the technical planning team so it can function as an office that will plan all FCAE program activities. The department has therefore been consolidated with a team capable of analysing different territorial issues and other FCAE needs. From the viewpoint of WWF-Colombia, FCAE should analyze the department's current and planned requirements, its current status, and different scenarios and options to satisfy identified needs (for example, cost-benefit analysis, logistic and financing autonomy, capacity building, control, and suitability). These activities would confer sustainability to the initiative of establishing a GIS-based planning department.</p>
Goal 6: To have the 22 schools of the Awa Territory applying an environment-oriented curriculum.	<p>Workshops and follow-up meetings were held with teachers on environment-related topics in the curriculum.</p>	<p>Goal met 100%. An environment-oriented curriculum is being implemented at 22 schools.</p>	<p>During this reporting period different workshops were held and the assistant directors of the Chical Mataje Awa Network monitored the impact of these workshops at the different educational centres in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching material relevant to environmental education prepared by teachers. • Teaching guide prepared and socialized. • Environment-oriented curriculum socialised and applied. • Contacts made with the Ministry of Education to negotiate phase II of the Chical Mataje Awa Network project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With FISE (Ecuador's Social Investment Fund) to build schools. - With the 'Tierra para Todos' Foundation for support in terms of teaching materials and the establishment of cafeterias at four educational centres.

Goal to 30 September 2003	Activities carried out during reporting period	Final status to 30 September 2003	Observations
Goal 7: To train 7 health promoters working at Awa Centres in the use of medicinal plants and disease prevention strategies (waste and water management, family care, and vaccination).	Activities were carried out promote the lots of medicinal plants existing in San Marcos, Mataje, and Guaña. Under the technical assistance of indigenous healers and the Sustainable Production team, new lots were planted. These are located at the homes of health promoters in San Marcos, Mataje, lower Rio Verde, Palmira de Toctoni, Pambilar and Guaña.	8 health promoters are working on different fronts: medicinal plants, waste management, water management, family health care, and vaccination. The goal of establishing lots of medicinal plants was met in 80%. The members of the communities mentioned are not interested in continuing with the lots.	<p>Only 75% of the health brigades planned have been carried out because the Department of Public Health has not supplied the biological materials or the pledged resources.</p> <p>The goal of the Health and Family subprogram to sponsor a discussion group was met 100%. However, it has been difficult to assess the lessons learned for subsequent application in Awa territory.</p> <p>The team of the Sustainable Production subprogram is providing technical assistance on how to establish the lots of traditional medicinal plants and how to build water purification and disinfection systems for household use at the Awa centres of Palmira de Toctoni, Mid-Rio Verde, and Baboso.</p> <p>Sustainable production promoters have focused on the raising of smaller animals, short-cycle crops, citric plants, and others of interest to community members.</p> <p>Women have been specifically trained in dressmaking, weaving with colored beads, and knitting in wool, and have had to opportunity to exchange ideas with other organisations. Other formation events dealt with leadership and women's rights.</p>
Goal 8: To ensure that families achieve a certain degree of independence in the maintenance and repair of their sewing machines, keeping a supply of spare parts and generating additional income.	A training workshop on the mechanics of sewing machines was held with the participation of men and women.	Goal met 100%.	This workshop, held at the Pailón centre with the participation of 18 different community members, aimed to improve the use given to sewing machines.

E. Difficulties encountered during project development this reporting period

Despite the agreements and clarifications given by the WWF coordinating team to Chemonics, the Altrópico Foundation, FCAE, and other NGOs supporting the “Protecting the Habitat in Awa Territory” and the CAIMAN projects regarding responsibilities, FCAE was overloaded with activities. Up to the last moment, WWF detected overlapping or parallel goals and activities, without sufficient clarity about the role played by the other project.

The consultants and contracted teams presented the final reports of the feasibility studies behind schedule, which did not allow sufficient time for comments and feedback to ensure they were sufficiently solid to serve as decision-making tools. WWF considers that decisions should not be taken until these studies yield the necessary information and are sufficiently analyzed by FCAE to foresee the possible negative impact of both business proposals. In consequence, a 12-month extension has been requested and approved by USAID to finish executing the funds related to the Rio Bogotá station and the timber processing centre in San Lorenzo.

Viewpoints

After 2 years of implementation of the project “Protecting the Habitat in Awa Territory”, WWF identifies the following

Strengths

- Enhanced clarity about the different but complementary roles played by FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation in northwestern Ecuador, and the support that one, as NGO, can give the other, as indigenous organisation.
- Increased strategic and programmatic clarity of FCAE, as reflected in the initial version of its Strategic Plan.
- Increased strategic clarity of the Altrópico Foundation, as reflected in its Strategic Plan.
- Collection of sufficient information for FCAE to prepare both a comprehensive territorial management proposal and a sustainable forest management proposal.
- People with strengthened technical skills and capacities in different fields.
- Strengthened administrative processes in both organisations, particularly in FCAE.

Challenges

For FCAE:

- Scale-up its vision of comprehensive territorial management (an exercise to design the territorial management plan or the life plan could prove very useful in this case) and its vision as a part of the Inkal Awa people.
- Capacity building in legal and political issues and in governance and individual rights, among other issues. The respect toward the Awa people does not come from the actions of legal consultants, but from the strengthening of their governance and self-authority.
- Communication and close ties with grassroot organisations: mechanisms of analysis, participation, consensus building, negotiation, and a proactive response before community needs or external pressures.
- Increased capacity of analysis and autonomy; reinforcement of cultural identity and of the Awa culture in all activities undertaken and in all proposals presented; more analysis before taking action.
- One of the challenges that continues for FCAE is a situation that existed before the project began: to harmonize what is “autochthonous” with what is “external”, what is “traditional” with what is “modern”, in the lines of work of the organisation: production systems, health, education, etc.
- The management of interinstitutional relationships, especially at a time when the number of project partners has increased from 2 to 3 to almost 7 in less than two years, in addition to various simultaneous donors and co-funding entities.
- The relationship with other Awa organisations.

For the Altrópico Foundation:

- Organisation of its intervention based on the strategic plan designed.
- Clear definition of roles and scope.
- In-depth analysis of context and subsequent streamlining of its intervention strategy.
- More elements of critical analysis supplied to those organisations it accompanies and supports.

Annexes

1. Annual report of the FCAE project “Protecting the Habitat in Awa Territory” regarding the indicators of USAID’s Strategic Objective 1.
2. Report of the ASDES Corporation on capacity building in legal issues and citizen formation of FCAE leaders.
3. INREDH’s report on capacity building in legal issues in FCAE communities.
4. Lists of training events carried out by the Altrópico Foundation (4A) and FCAE (4B) and under the umbrella of the project “Protecting the Habitat in Ecuador’s Awa Territory”.
5. Miscellaneous photos related to the project “Protecting the Habitat in Ecuador’s Awa Territory”.
6. FCAE’s Strategic Plan